

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 /065 W

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O 090947Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8539

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1249

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPEL AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PIN, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

REF: BEIRUT 1235

1. GREAT PUBLICITY ACCOMPANIED FRANGIE-KARAME TRIP TO DAMASCUS SATURDAY AND THERE IS PUBLIC EXPECTATION OF AN EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT ON LEBANESE POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ACCOMPANY GUARANTEE BY ASAD OF PALESTINIAN COMPLIANCE WITH CAIRO AGREEMENT OF 1969.

2. WE WOULD BE SURPRISED, HOWEVER, IF THINGS WERE WRAPPED UP QUITE SO RAPIDLY. FOR ONE THING, MARONITE "SUMMIT" AT KASLIK IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AND IT MAKES SENSE THAT FRANGIE MIGHT
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WISH TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER PRESENTING AGREEMENT HERE

BEFORE ANNOUNCING IT. NEVERTHELESS, TALK OF AN EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT IS MUCH IN THE AIR.

3. FRONT PAGE ALSO HEADLINED PRESIDENT BAKR'S PUBLIC WARNING YESTERDAY TO SYRIANS NOT TO TAMPER WITH PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS. THIS HAS OCCASIONED A PARALLEL PUBLIC DECLARATION BY ONE OR TWO MINOR IRAQI GROUPS HERE, BUT MAIN SPECULATION IS WHETHER THIS MIGHT INTENSIFY DIFFERENCES WITHIN PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT, BRINGING HEAVIER SYRIAN HAND INTO PLAY. WE NOTE KHADDAM IS RETURNING TO KBEIRUT IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. ALSO NOTE ASAD MADE SPECIFIC POINT OF DENYING IN DAMASCUS PRESS CONFERENCE THAT QUESTION OF JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE COMMAND HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. THIS WOULD APPEAR AIMED AT QUIETING SUSPICIONS RAISED BY ZUHAIR MOHSEN'S STATEMENT (REFTEL) THAT LEBANON WOULD BECOME A CONFRONTATION STATE.

5. MORE DEAD BODIES WERE FOUND YESTERDAY FOUR ON THE HAZMIEH ROAD AND TWO ON THE BAABDA ROAD). THIS SET OFF SOME ACTION BETWEEN CHIA AND AIN RUMMANEH, BUT SITUATION WAS BROUGHT QUICKLY UNDER CONTROL. THERE WERE ALSO MORE KIDNAPPINGS, PARTICULARLY IN TRIPOLI. ARMY IS MORE VISIBLE, HAVING OCCUPIED MOST OF AIRPORT ROAD AND SOME OTHER KEY ROADS IN THE CITY. INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES ARE IN PROCESS OF FORMING NEW BRIGADE TO CARRY OUT SPECIFIC SECURITY TASKS INsofar AS POSSIBLE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, HOWEVER, PLA REMAINS ULTIMATE GUARANTOR OF SECURITY IN MOST OF THE CITY AND COUNTRYSIDE.
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